



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 10/019,400  
Applicant : YAMASOTO et al.  
Filed: : December 28, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 3728  
Examiner : John G. Pickett

Confirmation No.: 1864

Docket No. : 7388/72545  
Customer No. : 42798

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, VA 22202

May 27, 2005

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter this Amendment in response to the November 30, 2004,  
Final Office Action.

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

Appln. No. 10/019,400  
Amdt. dated May 27, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

Yuichi and Tsukahara does not overcome the above-stated deficiency of Wilking.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 5, 13-17 would not have been suggested to a person of only ordinary skill in the art by Wilking alone or in combination with Yuichi and Tsukahara et al.

**Conclusion:**

Applicants submit that the above pending claims are now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery

By: 

Samuel P. Burkholder  
Registration No. 40,541  
Tel: (202) 419-7000  
Fax: (202) 419-7007

**Customer Number 42798**

Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery  
1801 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 401L  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1201